

MARPLE TOWNSHIP

Winter 2024 NEWS



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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Ward 5
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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Township Police
1001 Sussex Boulevard
Broomall, PA 19008
Emergency and Police call 911
www.marplepolice.com

Township Public Works Garage
446 Marpit Road
Broomall, PA 19008

Marple Public Library
2599 Sproul Road
Broomall, PA 19008
610-356-1510
www.marplelibrary.org

Broomall Fire Company
Non-Emergency 610-353-5225
www.broomallfirecompany.com

Marple Ambulance Corps.
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District Justice David Lang, Esq.
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Newtown Sq., PA 19073
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District Justice Robert D'Agostino
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Newtown Sq., PA 19073
610-353-2326 www.mnrecreation.org

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

To all residents of Marple Township, I would like to say, on behalf of the Township Commissioners and the Township staff, that it is our responsibility to provide municipal services to all our residents and be responsive to their needs. The goal of our 2024 fiscal year budget is to operate within the financial means of the community while maintaining essential levels of service and investing in infrastructure which will enable the Township government to meet the service needs of the future. Like previous years, this main objective and operational plan represents a continuation of the Board of Commissioners' and Management's commitment to building and investing in a high-quality community that effectively:



- Provides a broad range of public safety and community services,
- Maintains the Township's roads, parks, and infrastructure,
- Protects the natural environment,
- Maintains the vibrant set of recreational assets and services our residents enjoy.

Over the past four years, we have initiated innovative programs and services that have eliminated several thousand dollars from the operating budget, while enhancing services and becoming a greener friendly community. Management is committed to delivering these services at the lowest responsible costs we can. Department spending continues to be on everyone's

radar and is constantly evaluated for cost reduction and opportunities for increased efficiency. Cost containment is a consistent discipline among all Township departments and the 2024 budget certainly continues the constraint on spending. Yet, like any other organization, public or private, we have fixed costs and quality services to deliver.

One of our many noteworthy accomplishments is the inter-municipal cooperation we enjoy with our neighbors. Marple Township, Haverford Township, Newtown Square and Upper Darby Township share along with us on several efforts including the yearly road resurfacing program, joint purchase for fuel and road salt and brine applications. I am proud to say that Marple, Haverford and Upper Darby Townships continue to be the only communities providing in-house road brine application and we are excited about this continued partnership.

Another major program that saves our community thousands of dollars each year is the Township Leaf Collection and Composting program. The Marple Township Composting and yard waste program has made significant advances towards diverting yard waste from our traditional trash stream - saving the Marple Township Taxpayers well over \$150,000 per year.



Specifically, the new composting program allows the Public Works staff to collect the leaves in the fall and process them throughout the winter and spring - creating excellent mulch material. Since the fall of 2016, over 6,000 tons of leaf and yard waste have been collected at the municipal recycling yard.

I am happy to report that Marple Township recently received additional grants in the amount of \$600,000 to repair storm water issue on Lindbergh Blvd. and to expand the walking trail along Veterans Memorial Park. Sometime this spring, the Township will also be starting the new parking area at Veterans Park that will add 50 new parking spaces to the popular recreational area. We have also submitted several other grant requests for the purpose of constructing 10 new pickleball courts and new bathrooms at South Marple Little League Field.

The Administration and staff remain steadfast in our desire to find ways to operate more efficiently and economically and to continue offering the highest level of quality services. We will not deviate from these goals, and the 2024 budget provides a prudent and sound plan to achieve these objectives.

Please be assured that the Board of Commissioners, Administration and Staff members are here to assist you. If at any time you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

*Sincerely,
Larry Gentile
Township Manager*

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

I would also like to remind residents about the importance of subscribing to the Townships Emergency Notification System. It is an essential service that provides information from our emergency management personnel so our community can be prepared for unexpected emergencies. In the event of an emergency that affects Marple Township, a subscriber who has provided us with their home and/or cell phone number(s) will be contacted via a live or pre-recorded voice message about the nature of the event as well as proper response actions that the public should undertake. This service is provided by the Delaware County Emergency Notification System (DELCO ALERT), a strategic voice messaging system. Although the Township has provided Delco Alert with a general database of Marple Township home and business phone numbers, all residents are urged to subscribe to ensure that they receive proper emergency voice notifications.

To subscribe:
<https://www.delcopa.gov/delcoready/informed.html>



Once again, our number one goal is public service and we see it as an honor and privilege to provide it to you. Should you ever need to talk with me personally, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (610) 356-4040.

*Sincerely,
Larry Gentile
Township Manager*





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5TH WARD ELECTS NEW COMMISSIONER

Marple Township Welcomes Newly Elected 5th Ward Commissioner George J. Downs, III

On November 7, 2023, George Downs was elected as the new 5th Ward Commissioner in Marple Township. George ran for the seat previously held by John Longacre for nine terms. Commissioner Longacre did not seek reelection. We thank John for the many years of service to our community.

At the reorganization meeting on January 2, 2024, George was sworn in by Delaware County Common Pleas Court Judge John Capuzzi at the Marple Township Municipal Building, surrounded by his family and friends.

George is a devoted family man — married to Daneen for 30 years with six children. George is a 25-year Marple Township resident. He is a past President and Board Member of Saint Annie's CYO for 8 years. George is also a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Annie's. George was a coach and member of the Marple Township Little League for 14 years and Babe Ruth and MNBA coach for 20+ years. George has also been a Marple Township business owner for 10+ years.

George will be serving on the Planning & Development Committee, Bid Committee,



Front Row L-R Julia, Caroline & Kelly, Back Row L-R Daneen (Wife), Kevin, George IV, Joseph & George III

and is Liaison Commissioner for the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Marple Tree Advisory Committee, and Pension Advisory Committee.

Suffice it to say, George Downs is no stranger to our community, and he will make a fine addition to the Marple Township Board of Commissioners.

POLICE CHIEF MESSAGE

Happy belated New Year from all of us here at the Marple Township Police Department! May it be filled with happiness, productivity, and fulfillment. No matter what you do or where you go this year, always remember to take a moment to do the small things that will help deter, and maybe even prevent, criminals from doing their job:

- **ALWAYS** lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight.
- **ALWAYS** lock the doors and windows of your home, even when you're there.
- **ALWAYS** be aware of your surroundings. Keep your eyes up and your head on a casual swivel. Be mindful of your phone and ear bud usage! Those things can be the best accomplices for criminals because they occupy their victims' senses and create distraction. Criminals are focused on their surroundings and prefer victims who aren't. And though you will probably never even know it, doing all these things will discourage and prevent crimes of opportunity and drastically reduce your chances of being a victim.



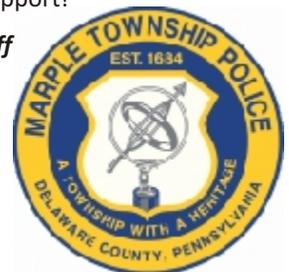
Brazen lawlessness has become a way of life in too many of our nation's cities and suburbs. I want to assure you that we intend to keep it there. In those places, criminal behavior is too often excused while lax enforcement of laws and/or prosecution of criminals is tolerated. I subscribe to none of it. We will not allow Marple Township to become a haven for permissive lawlessness and the resulting extension of fear and misery caused by, I believe, the perverted or misguided tenants of "social" justice. Your MTPD aggressively investigates, pursues, and arrests criminals and the Delco District Attorney is equally aggressive in their prosecutions. Our officers and detectives are the best in the business, but we cannot see it all and know it all. We depend on you as much as you depend on us! Keep your eyes and ears open - report crimes in progress, things or people that don't seem right, and maintain the quality of life for which you work hard. Dialing 911 is always the best way to get police, medical, or fire services.

From traffic enforcement to criminal activity to local teams and organizations, our officers are proactive, engaged, & involved. The men and women of the Marple Township Police Department remain committed to the highest degree of public service, training, and education. The goals of this police department are identical to those of the Marple community — a safe, secure Township where families, schools, and businesses can thrive together.



Find resources and stay informed about what we're doing and what's going on in town by subscribing to our website <https://delaware.crimewatchpa.com/marpletwppd>. I also encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@marplepolice). Thank you for your continued support!

Brandon M. Graeff
Chief of Police



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PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal Information

The Public Works staff are preparing for the Winter Season, and we are already fully stocked with 800 tons of salt which can easily handle several major snowstorms.

Winter maintenance is a critical and difficult task, and motorists are partners in making this season a safe one by always

thinking safety first and be sure that they are giving plenty of room to our operators and other motorists. We have contracts in place to receive additional road salt and additional supplies on an ongoing basis throughout the winter season to prevent any shortages. The Public Works staff have 18 trucks that are dispatched to handle all our Township and State roads throughout our community.



The primary function of the Public Works crews is plowing, and the Township's goal is to first open one lane of traffic in each direction on every road, then return and plow the snow back to the curb, exposing the storm inlets.

Clearing Streets and Sidewalks

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow, sleet, and ice from the sidewalks in front of their property within 24 hours after a storm and must at all times keep said sidewalks free and clear of snow, slush and ice. Under Section 285-60 of the Marple Township Code, it is unlawful for any property owner, resident, contractor, agent or employee to shovel, plow, discharge or otherwise place snow removed from a private property into any street, roadway, sidewalk or alley within Marple Township. This ordinance is strictly enforced.

Fire Hydrants

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear the snow away from the area around it, leaving the markers intact. This will assist firefighters in the event of an emergency.



More Winter Reminders:

- ❄ Do not drive unless it is necessary.
- ❄ Keep winter driving aids (blanket, shovel, boots, etc.) in the trunk of your car.
- ❄ When possible, remove vehicles from the street to enable road crews to efficiently plow and clear streets.
- ❄ Remove snow, ice and slush from sidewalks including handicap ramps within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling.
- ❄ Plowing operations begin after more than 2" accumulation and freezing temperatures which indicate no natural melting will occur.
- ❄ Clear vehicle completely of snow and ice before driving.
- ❄ Pile snow from sidewalks and driveways on lawns, not in the street.
- ❄ Residents are responsible for clearing snow around mailboxes.
- ❄ Basketball hoops are not permitted to be located within the right-of-way and must be removed from the roadway.
- ❄ Private plowing crews should haul snow from properties if it cannot be piled safely.
- ❄ Do not push snow onto the street or onto neighboring properties.
- ❄ Clear fire hydrants of snow as soon as possible.

Winter Deicing Tips for Residents



Excess salt and other deicing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter, you can help by following these environmentally-friendly snow removal practices:

Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing chemicals like rock salt.

Shovel snow into permeable surfaces including gently sloping and level landscape and grassy areas so as the snow melts it will soak into the ground rather than flow directly into a nearby storm drain or stream.

If you must use deicing chemicals, follow these suggestions:

Control application of chemical deicers and avoid over application.

Limit chemical applications near environmentally-sensitive areas including springs, streams, ponds, wetlands, and water supply areas and sensitive landscape and vegetation.

After snowmelt, sweep up residues, including sand, to prevent it from washing into storm drains and streams.

A smart way to shovel your drive

How to reduce the possibility of getting a huge pile of snow in your driveway opening when snowplows clear your street:



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Even More for You at Marple Library

Now, in addition to live and virtual programs for all ages, museum passes, video games, preloaded Kindles, Hoopla, audio books, outdoor seating, community puzzle, Library of Things and of course books... we now have a **Seed Library**.

What is a Seed Library?

This is a new resource for our community. You'll be able to check out seeds stored in our Seed Library by filling out a form. There is no requirement to "return" seeds but we hope you will learn about the best seed saving practices to save seeds from what you grow to help keep our Seed Library stocked. A library card is not required to use the Seed Library but we'd love for you to get one.

In addition to seeds, you can consult our collection of gardening books and other resources to help you start growing and we will be hosting speakers and hands-on workshops about various gardening topics. There will also be three Kid Kits with fun gardening books and activities available for checkout.

What Seeds will be Available?

We plan to have vegetables, flowers, and herbs, with historic and native varieties as well. Selections include a variety of tomatoes, lettuce, beans and peppers. We also have cilantro, dill, wild bergamot, echinacea, and more. The original seed packets have been repackaged into smaller envelopes and will include enough seeds to grow 1 or 2 plants.

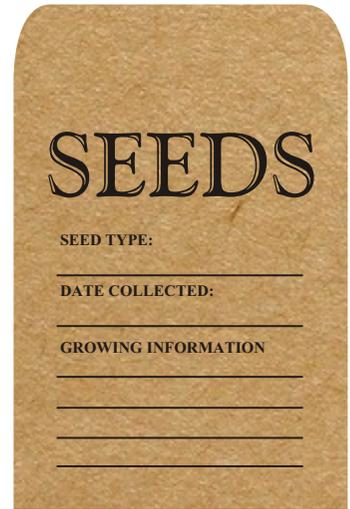
How do you "return" Seeds?

To return or donate, complete a "Seed Return" form and place it, along with your seeds, in our Donation bin at the Seed Library. Returned or donated seeds must be clean and dry and Seeds labeled with plant name, variety, and the year and location in which the seeds were harvested. Notes about growth rate, taste, and color are great additions and information for future growers. We'd especially love to add more native seeds to our collection.

We are very proud of our new Seed Library and the collaborations that brought this new resource to our Library. Thanks to our volunteers a catalog was made available, a local mother reached out about a volunteer project for her son, and her son accepted as his Eagle Scout project. The finished product by Jacob H and Troop 122 is truly amazing! Thank you to all who completed the Seed Survey online and at the library. It helped our planning tremendously. Many of the

seeds were provided by The Seed Savers Exchange. We were able to fund the programs, supplies, books, and Kid Kits through a grant from the Library Foundation of Delaware County.

We know there is a service, program, or event for you this winter and year-round. Keep up to date on our new Seed Library and planned workshops, popular favorites, and new plans by joining us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. More information and updates can be found at <https://marplelibrary.org/>.





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HARMONIZING SPACES

Marple Newtown High School's New Band Practice Area



Band Practice Area



Student Musicians Practicing

The Marple Newtown High School Tiger Band was often playing "musical chairs" practicing in various areas sharing spaces with other extracurricular activities. With most high school students involved in some type of extracurricular activity, reserving space for practice was at a premium. The student musicians needed their own dedicated space for effective skill development. On August 3, 2021, the Marple Newtown Board of School Directors unanimously approved the motion to initiate a dedicated band practice area facility project to move forward with construction.

A specialized area would provide the students with the safety and space they needed, free from interruptions. Such an environment would support the students to focus better, allowing both individual and group performances to improve. Additionally, having an area with similar conditions provided during competitive performances would assist the band during rehearsals.

On March 7, 2023, the Marple Newtown Board of School Directors, along with school administration, faculty, students, parents, and members of the community, came together to

ceremoniously inaugurate the MN Tiger Band Practice Area. This new and exclusive band practice space spans 80 yards, complete with designated markings for rehearsals and performances. It is also equipped with a 24-foot conductor's tower with power and data functionalities, lighting, storage shed, audience bleachers, and its own private entryway to the main stadium. This state-of-the-art facility has attracted attention on a national scale.

The benefits of this dedicated practice area extend beyond just the musicians. This new facility allows parents and the community to witness and appreciate the students' talents. Moreover, with the addition of modern technology and space, instructors can employ advanced teaching methods, preparing students for contemporary performances.

Marple Newtown School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for nine (9) years. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate an

exceptionally high commitment to provide music access and education to all students. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education.

Just as music constantly evolves, our student musicians' skills and talents also flourish over time. The journey from being an individual musician to becoming an integral part of a larger ensemble is a remarkable transformation. Membership in a school's marching band demands an extraordinary time commitment from our students and their families. Countless hours are devoted to individual practice and collective rehearsals, forging bonds that extend beyond simple classmates and supportive parents – they become cherished friends and an extended family.



Scan for Flyover Video

Marple Newtown School District Board of School Directors

On December 4, 2023, MNSD welcomed three re-elected Board Directors, Matthew J. Bilker, John P. McKenzie, Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., as well as two newly elected Board Directors, Dana Altobelli and Lisa Pacell. Congratulations to Matthew J. Bilker being appointed School Board President and Nicholas V. Siano being appointed School Board Vice President.



Back row, Left to Right: David Dezzi, John P. McKenzie, Matthew J. Bilker (Board President), Nicholas J. Reynolds, Nicholas V. Siano (Board Vice President), Front row, Left to Right: Anthony A. Maakouf, Dana Altobelli, Lisa S. Pacell, Barbara S. Harvey

Upcoming School Board Meetings

Committee Meetings

February 13, 2024
March 12, 2024
April 9, 2024

Regular Meetings

February 27, 2024
March 19, 2024
April 24, 2024

The full list of the 2024 MNSD School Board Meetings can be found on the District website at <https://www.mnsd.org/school-board/meeting-calendars>

FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY

Kindergarten Registration is open
February 1, 2024

To register go to the District website
at www.mnsd.org and click on the
Student Registration tab.

Loomis Kindness Walk

Living in the Loomis Community is great! Families take care of each other and support the students and school. To thank the community for all that they do for our students, Loomis teaches the students about kindness. The plan is for students to make cards for their neighbors as a way of giving back to the community.

Every year, Loomis students make pretty cards with nice messages inside. These cards are then delivered anonymously to homes in the Loomis Community during a Kindness Walk in February.

This annual community project started five years ago with fifth grade students and has grown to include students from second to fifth grade. Showing kindness helps children learn about being responsible and making the world a better place. Being kind not only helps the children grow as individuals and be thankful but also makes them proud of the community they call home.

The Loomis Kindness Walk has led to good relationships and a friendlier community. Each year, Loomis students receive positive feedback from people who are happy and thankful for getting a card from a Loomis student.



Worral School's Jump Rope for Heart challenge is always a huge success! At this annual winter event, students enjoy different jump rope stations while raising money for the American Heart Association.

This event teaches our students how working together as a community can help keep our hearts healthy.



Worral Jump Rope for Heart

Culbertson Reads for the Ronald McDonald House

Every February Culbertson Elementary School teams up with the Ronald McDonald House to raise money for families who will need to be away from their home for an extended period of time while their child is receiving long term medical treatment. Students gather sponsor donations based on the amount of reading the students complete throughout the month of February. Culbertson is extremely proud of their eight-year relationship with the Ronald McDonald House. To date, the school has raised approximately \$30,000 dollars to help families in need.

Russell Against Hunger



Kids Against Hunger, a non-profit humanitarian organization, is dedicated to providing nutritious meals to underprivileged children and families globally, as well as within our local communities. The organization's mission is to offer a stable nutritional foundation through these meals, empowering recipient families to transition from food insecurity to self-sufficiency.

Each year, the 5th grade students of Russell Elementary School collaborate with Kids Against Hunger in Broomall for an annual service project. Last year, students and teachers worked collaboratively in an assembly line, packing 6,800 meals for local families in need. This year, our ambitious target is to pack 7,000 meals, a goal made possible by the generous contributions from Russell families during our annual Penny War fundraiser. Remarkably, this year's Penny Wars raised an impressive \$2,300, showcasing the community's commitment to making a positive impact.

This community outreach experience teaches our students valuable lessons about compassion, teamwork, and the impact that giving can have on the lives of others.

HEALTH & INJURY PREVENTION

WHAT IS CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME?

BY THE PHILADELPHIA HAND TO SHOULDER CENTER PHYSICIANS

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a common condition that causes pain, numbness, and tingling in the hand and arm. The condition occurs when one of the major nerves to the hand—the median nerve—is squeezed or compressed as it travels through the wrist.

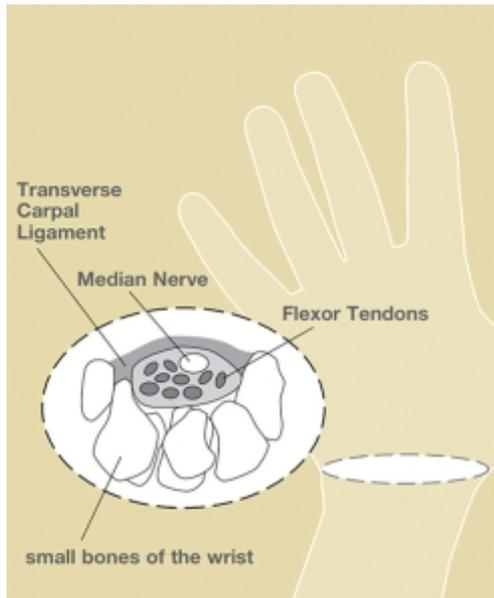
In addition to numbness and tingling, carpal tunnel syndrome can cause swelling, weakness, and night time pain. Patients sometimes describe dropping things unexpectedly and may have difficulty with buttoning shirts, tying shoelaces, or handling loose change.



What causes carpal tunnel syndrome?

Carpal tunnel syndrome is frequently seen in individuals who develop swelling or inflammation in their hands. People who smoke, as well as those with connective tissue diseases, diabetes mellitus, and hypothyroidism, may be at greater risk. Repetitive work activities can also cause carpal tunnel syndrome.

The median nerve acts as an electrical wire between the spinal cord and the hand. The nerve passes through the carpal tunnel in the wrist along with nine tendons that bend the fingers. When the tendons in the



wrist become swollen and inflamed, the median nerve can become compressed by the transverse carpal ligament (see figure), leading to carpal tunnel symptoms.

Early on, symptoms commonly occur during sleeping hours. In more advanced cases, the symptoms can become problematic during waking hours. Many sufferers describe symptoms with benign activities, like reading the newspaper or driving a car.

What can a hand surgeon do to help?

A hand surgeon can order special nerve tests to verify the extent of the problem. Custom wrist splints are helpful for early stages of carpal tunnel syndrome. These splints are worn at nighttime to relieve pressure on the median nerve and to prevent the wrists from bending during sleep.

Cortisone injections often provide excellent relief from symptoms. Unfortunately, symptomatic relief is only temporary, and most people experience a recurrence of symptoms after 3-4 months.

For chronic or more advanced cases, carpal tunnel surgery is often recommended as the best course of treatment.

What can I expect from surgery?

Surgery provides more space for the median nerve and relieves pressure on the median nerve and tendons. This procedure is typically done under light sedation and local anesthesia and usually takes only minutes to complete.

While there are several different approaches to performing carpal tunnel surgery, usually a 1/2 inch incision is made near the wrist and use of a camera to release the tunnel under direct visualization. This minimally invasive approach minimizes discomfort following surgery and allows patients to return to activities more quickly. Over 95 percent of patients improve dramatically following surgical intervention, with most returning to daily activities within days. Many patients can resume heavier job-related activities after 2-4 weeks.

Contact us at 1-610-768-5959 to schedule an appointment with one of our providers.



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Do Your Trees Suffer From Attacks By The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

This coming summer many homeowners will look at the skyline around town and notice an alarming number of dead and dying trees. A closer look around local neighborhoods will reveal similar devastation. Why are there lots of rotten twigs, branches, and other tree debris in the roads and on people's lawns? Why are there elongated tan strips of bark on the ash trees? **Answer:** they are caused by woodpeckers trying to get at the borers at work destroying your tree.

This damage is caused by the Emerald Ash borer (EAB) which loves ash trees. After the borer kills the trees over time, lower forms of life--mushrooms and other fungi--take over and break down the structure of the dead wood until the branches can no longer stay attached to the tree trunks. Even the trunks themselves may be so compromised that the whole tree will fall. (see accompanying picture). Check the bark closely on these trunks and you may find mycelium, thread like structures, which resemble roots.

Dying ash trees are dangerous and they are everywhere. Branches fall anytime on fences, sheds, pools, and porches. Once you begin to see ash tree debris on the ground,



call an arborist. Many refuse to climb these unstable trees to cut them down. Instead, they use a bucket truck. It is important to eliminate these trees before they unexpectedly fall and damage your car or even take a life.

Consider replacing the dead ash trees with the help of the Marple Tree Commission. We have affordable trees for your property from shade trees to ornamental flowering trees.

Rick Ray, Horticulturist
Marple Tree Commission
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Web sites like <https://haverfordclimateaction.org/> provide a one-stop shop for information on things you can do, upcoming webinars, videos and more. The biggest savings in energy is to use less; please consider an energy assessment if you have not had one done. Peco offers this for \$49.

Solar the Easy Way Solar PV Tax Credits Supercharged

Home solar tax credits went up to 30% for 2023 and beyond making solar payback even better. Non-profits can now also benefit and get a direct 30% federal rebate for systems turned on in 2023. Solarize Delco is evaluating for installation in 2024!

Solarize DelCo Group Pricing

Residents, non-profits, and businesses in Delaware County
Email us at solarizedelco@gmail.com with name, address and phone number and we can help you assess whether the Solarize Delco program with vetted vendors and a

significant discount over market rates is right for you.

New Low Income Grants and Leasing Options

Income qualified homeowners can apply for a grant (up to \$5,000) while funds last or take advantage of our new partnership with a vetted leasing firm that can reduce monthly bills by a combination of Solar PV and weatherization. Solarize Delco can help you decide what is best for you.

Who are we?

Your neighbors, an all volunteer non-profit providing education, unbiased information and an easier path to putting solar on your home, business or house of worship. We can help Houses of Worship and other non-profits find sources of funding as well.

More info at www.solarizedelco.org.
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solarizedelco@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number and we can help you assess whether the Solarize Delco program with a selected vendor and a significant discount over market rates is right for you. In Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery County - Email solarizesepa@gmail.com.



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Sewer backups and flooding can cause devastating property damage and are not covered by standard homeowners' insurance policies. The majority of these claims are the responsibility of the property owner. Sewage from sanitary sewer lines occasionally back up into houses through drain pipes. These backups not only cause extensive water damage that is difficult and expensive to repair, but also create health hazards.

Marple Township is not responsible for damages caused by sewers, drains and sump pumps except under limited/special circumstances provided by the Pennsylvania Political Subdivision Tort Claim Act.

Property owners must be aware that they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their private sewer lateral from their dwelling to and including its connection to the Township sewer main. Owners should also review their Flood and Sewer Backup insurance coverage with their agent/insurance companies in order to properly protect their personal property.

Please pay particular attention to the following coverages:

Coverage for Sewers, Drains and Sump Pumps:

This valuable coverage is **not** included under your standard homeowner's policy, But can be purchased by endorsement by a rider for an additional premium.

Flood Coverage:

Flood coverage is **not** included under your homeowner's policy. However, flood insurance is available under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and can be obtained through your insurance agent or broker.

THE TOWNSHIP DOES NOT PROVIDE FLOOD INSURANCE.

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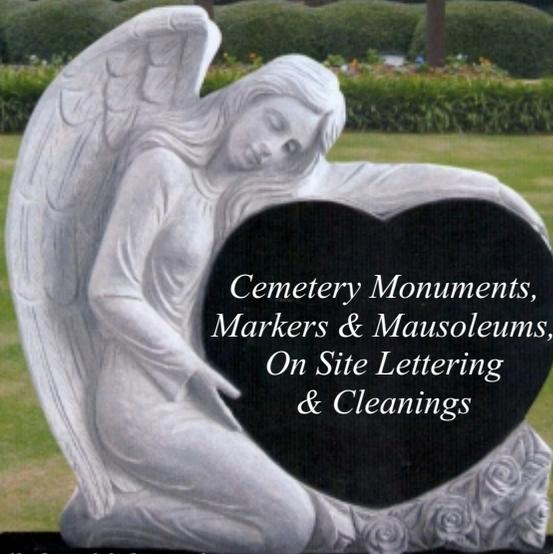
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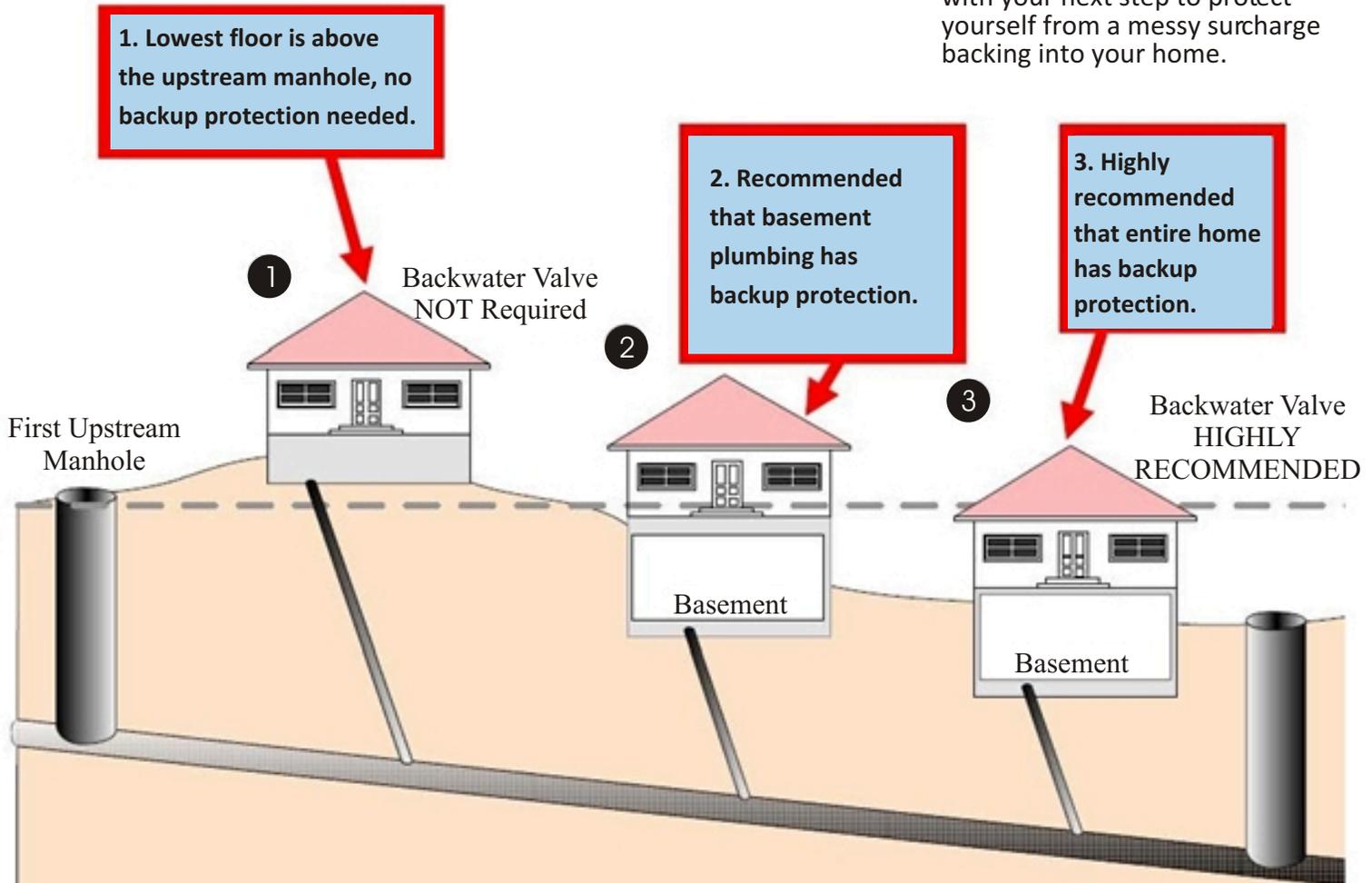
How Can Overloaded Sanitary Sewers Cause Flooding In Your Home?

The water in an overloaded sewer flows at a higher level than normal. If the home has sanitary fixtures or floor drains that are below the higher overload level, water can flow backwards through the sanitary sewer lines into the basement or other low-lying areas of the home.

Section 715.1 of IPC (International Plumbing Code) states that any plumbing fixtures that are installed on a floor with an elevation below the elevation of the manhole cover of the next upstream manhole in the public sewer, such fixture shall be protected by a backflow preventer in the building drain or horizontal branch serving such fixture.

Such fixture connections might include washer hookups, water softener, backflushing lines, toilets, shower stalls, sinks and illegally connected sump pumps and floor drains.

If you feel that your fixture connections fall in this category, contact your sewer authority to see if they will come out and inspect your situation and possibly help you with your next step to protect yourself from a messy surcharge backing into your home.



Be Proactive and Protect Your Pipes

It's all about prevention. Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather. And they cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind.

Before the Freezing Temperatures Set In

Know where your main water shut-off valve is located.

Turn off your irrigation system.

Eliminate sources of cold air near water pipes by fixing windows or insulating walls.

Protect exposed pipes by wrapping them with insulation, fabric or newspaper.

When Temperatures Stay Below Freezing

Let the snow cover your water meter. Snow acts as insulation, so don't disturb it.

Allow a small trickle of water to run over night to keep pipes from freezing.

Open cabinet doors to let warm air in your home reach the pipes.

If Your Pipes Freeze

Shut off the water immediately.

Warm the air around the frozen pipe. Avoid kerosene heaters or open flames.

Turn the water back on slowly once pipes have thawed and check for cracks and leaks.

-Source: PA American Water



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